

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A method for extracting desired data for metric analysis, the method comprising the steps of:

specifying desired data elements to be extracted from an operational database;
automatically generating executable code from said specified data elements, the generated code being for extracting said specified data elements from said operational database;
and

executing said executable code thereby extracting said specified data elements from said operational database and storing said extracted data in a staging database.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein said step of specifying includes identifying attributes and processes related to said desired data elements.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein said operational database is a relational database.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein said staging database is a relational database.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The method of claim 2 wherein identifying the data elements, attributes and processes is performed utilizing a graphical user interface.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The method of claim 5 wherein the step of identifying includes deriving rules for extracting said desired data elements from graphical representations and manually defined values of said attributes and processes related to said desired data elements.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein the step of executing includes invoking a background process for extracting and storing said specified data elements.

Claim 8-16 (canceled)